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Ministry of Advanced Education

PROVINCE PROVIDES $8M FOR GREEN SCIENCE BUILDING

BURNABY – The Province is investing $8 million in a green science building at Simon Fraser University that will house researchers working on low-cost sources of energy and new treatments for illness, Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell announced today.

"This centralized research and learning space demonstrates the government's continued support for, and investment in post-secondary education," said Coell. "This new state-of-the-art facility will enhance and strengthen the leading-edge research and first-class training carried out at Simon Fraser University that provides sustainable solutions to real-world problems."

The Technology and Science Complex 2 (TASC 2) building is a new research complex that officially opened today in Burnaby. It has unique features like vibration-free floating floors for the use of ultra-high resolution microscopes. The building was designed to support cross-disciplinary research and provides flexible laboratory space. It was built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver environmental standards.

One third of TASC 2 is occupied by 4D Labs that previously received $7 million from the British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund. At 4D Labs, a multi-disciplinary team of leading researchers will research, design, and develop new models leading to advancements in the creation of new materials and nano-scale devices that will help the environment and lead to medical breakthroughs. Generally, things at the nano-scale are too small for humans to see. The head of a pin is a million nanometres wide and a human hair is 80,000 nanometres thick.

The other two thirds of TASC 2 houses MITACS (mathematics of information technology and complex systems) and PIMS (Pacific institute for the mathematical sciences) facilities, as well as numerous specialized labs and offices.

"On behalf of the board of governors at Simon Fraser University, and the researchers and students who will benefit from this extraordinary new facility, I thank the government for continuing to invest in post-secondary education," said Dr. Michael Stevenson, Simon Fraser University president. "These magnificent new facilities put SFU in the front lines of fields like nanomedicine and industrial mathematics."

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A total of 579 projects and over $390 million in funding have been approved by the provincial government under the British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund. This funding has leveraged $405 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and another $344 million from other non-provincial government sources, for a total investment in British Columbia's research infrastructure of over $1 billion.

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